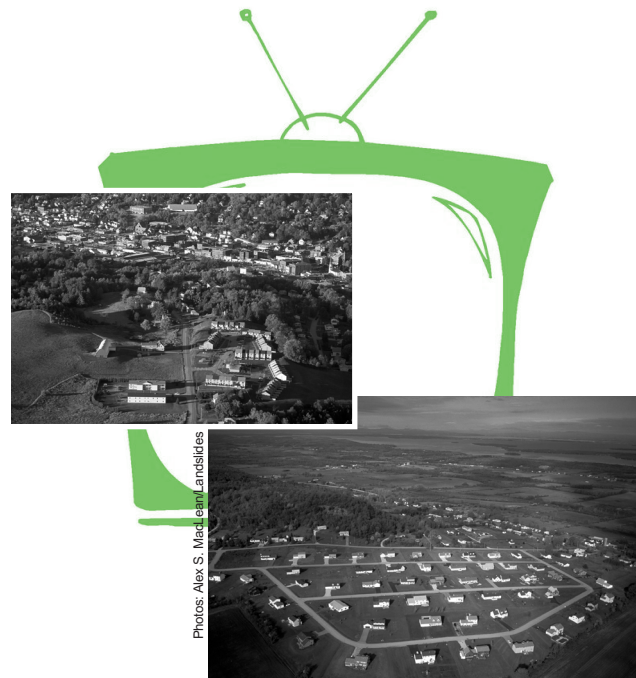




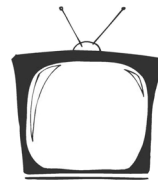
In response to widespread concern about growth, Cross Current Productions, New Hampshire Public Television, and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests collaborated to create **Livable Landscapes: By Chance or By Choice?**, a one-hour documentary airing January 29. Citizens from five communities across northern New England tell about how they are transforming their towns. You will visit: **Stratham, New Hampshire**, where you'll meet farmer John Hutton and citizens of a once-rural town responding to waves of suburban development with land-conserving subdivision designs and a conservation ballot initiative to purchase special places.

Littleton, New Hampshire, where the merchants, local officials, and activists have transformed a dying town center into a vibrant, attractive place to live, work, and shop. **Chittenden County, Vermont**, where citizens in communities around Burlington have hotly debated the proposed Circumferential Highway for decades. Some argue that the new highway will solve traffic problems. Others claim that it will not ease congestion, and will contribute to sprawling development in outlying rural areas. **Shoreham, Vermont**, though beyond the reach of sprawl for now, farmers are placing conservation easements on their land to assure that this will remain a farming community. **Scarborough, Maine**, where people have discovered that, as in most communities, their zoning regulations do not allow the building of traditional New England villages. You'll watch neighbors participate in designing Dunstan Corner, a new village with a diversity of housing densities, stores located close to housing, trails, parks, and schools.

54 Portsmouth Street
Concord, NH 03301



People in Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire are proud of their communities — their historic town centers, farm and forest land, clean air and water, recreation opportunities, and vital rural economies. So, when they look around and see the farmland being converted to house lots, roads clogged with traffic, and downtowns dying, they grow concerned. **Livable Landscapes: By Chance or By Choice?** explores the transformation taking place in five communities across northern New England where townspeople are struggling with tough choices about how their towns grow and change.



Ideas for Watching and Discussing the Program

- Gather local officials, civic leaders and activists to watch the broadcast. Follow-up with a discussion led by a local expert, official or a facilitator.
- Show the video at a community meeting and survey residents' attitudes about growth in town at the end of the film. A second meeting could be held to go over the results of the survey and to talk about a plan of action for the community. (See survey at www.vtsprawl.org.)
- Ask the local library to buy a copy of the film and publicize its availability to residents, book groups, or other civic groups.
- Select boards or town councils could invite other local officials to view the film and discuss at their next commission or board meeting.
- Land trusts and watershed groups could purchase a copy of the film and show it to neighborhood and civic groups to stimulate discussions about a vision for the town and what can be done to achieve it.

Discussion Questions:

- ▶ What is our vision for our community?
- ▶ What do we want to leave for future generations?
- ▶ Do our land use regulations allow us to achieve this vision?
- ▶ What are the special places in our community that are worth saving and what steps should we take to protect them?
- ▶ How can we revitalize our downtown?
- ▶ How can we deal with traffic congestion?
- ▶ How can we create a variety of housing options that give people who work here and grow up here the ability to live here?
- ▶ **How do our personal choices about where we live, work, and shop affect the landscape?**

DON'T LEAVE GROWTH TO CHANCE!

WATCH THIS PROGRAM JANUARY 29 AT 8 P.M.

For more information about the program, visit:

www.crosscurrentproductions.com or www.nhptv.org.

To order a copy of the video, contact:

Bullfrog Films at (800) 543-3764 or www.bullfrogfilms.com.

For information about showings and organizations working on smart growth in your state, contact:

NH Sarah Thorne at the Society for the Protection of NH Forests at (603) 224-9945; sthorne@spnhf.org.

VT Beth Humstone at the Vermont Forum on Sprawl at (802) 864-6310; info@vtsprawl.org; www.vtsprawl.org.

ME Beth Dellavalle at (207) 287-2851; BethDellavalle@state.me.us.

To download this brochure, visit

www.spnhf.org/what/sprawlfilm.html.



"Livable Landscapes: By Chance or By Choice" is a production of Cross Current Productions in collaboration with New Hampshire Public Television and SPNHF, produced in association with ITVS, with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Additional funding was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Statewide Program of Action to Conserve our Environment, New Hampshire Humanities Council, Arthur Getz Charitable Trust Community Development Finance Authority of New Hampshire, French Foundation, Lyda Ebert Family Foundation, Maine Community Foundation, Mainstream Fund of the Maine Community Foundation, Maine Humanities Council, and the John Sage Foundation.

VIEWER'S GUIDE COURTESY OF STONYFIELD FARM

